

MEET THE HARRINGTONS!

By AGWire™
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By now, you are probably getting tired of more of the same British Invasion reference that we can't seem to steer away from, but **WE'RE** NOT! And **THIS** is DIFFERENT! Maybe the correlation won't be as legendary as the Fab Four, but quite interesting nevertheless! Even if you're a seasoned collectible bullion aficionado, there's a good chance that you have never seen or held a Harrington silver ingot from the land down under. What interests us is that while Australian production of Engelhard, Johnson Matthey / Matthey Garrett, ABC Bullion and Deak International often shared identical production moulds for many of their Aussie bars, giving all a similar appearance, Harrington clearly *broke the mould* with their bullion, each size and variety unique only to Harrington. Even more fascinating, individual size ingots varied in mould size and shape within small serial runs, a characteristic suggesting very small batches of possibly made-to-order ingots. Imagine that, if you can. This is uncanny for a major refiner, but their forte was gold and their primary purpose was industrial feed metals based on industry demand.

Since the company's inception in 1906, Harrington Metallurgist, LTD. was a significant Australian mining and bullion player in its day, with original roots in Sydney before firmly relocating just outside of Melbourne in the State of Victoria. John Cooke purchased Harrington in 1945 and gradually built it to become the largest privately owned metallurgical firm in Australia, with offices in all states as well as in Hong Kong, Singapore and New Zealand. By the late 1970's, Harrington was marketing around two-thirds of Australia's gold production and achieved LMBA accreditation in 1991, along with the likes of The Perth Mint and Johnson Matthey. Harrington Metallurgist, LLC. was acquired in 1995 by LMBA accredited Golden West Refining Corporation of Perth, New South Wales.

Harrington ingots were commonly known as industrial bars and were manufactured for repurposing, thus their crude nature and appearance. After all, what's the point of making a pretty and shiny bar if the end user is going to melt it? It's funny though how **ugly** then is **beauty** now. To us, anyway. Many of the larger Harrington ingot varieties displayed the deeply struck Harrington hallmark that is immediately recognizable, as shown in the top right photo. Harrington's production menu represented all of the common sizes akin to the larger refiners as well as odd-weight ingots. These rare, hand-poured and hand-stamped silver ingots that we love and cherish preceded LMBA and evolved when Harrington was very young in its retail silver bullion history.

Bullion historians tell us that Harrington looked at their bullion size menu as “incremental change” not unlike coinage denominations. An industrial consumer would order say 175oz of silver bullion for use, and Harrington would supply the amount in change from its production stock (i.e. 100oz, 50oz, 10oz, 10oz, 5oz). Not surprisingly, the few remaining bars that have survived repurposing are now quickly garnering attention from collectors around the world for their crude beauty, very-limited and mostly serialized production, which was originally estimated at less than 10,000 total silver ingots, so you can just imagine their outright scarcity in today’s market.

Below is an outline of the known sizes and estimated mintages of Harrington silver ingots:

10gm	Serial Absent Pendant	< 250
1 oz	Serial Absent	< 50
5 oz	Serial and Serial Absent Varieties	< 250
10 oz	Serial Absent	< 500
0.5kg	Serial Absent	< 250
500 gm	Serial Absent	< 500
660 -773gm	Random Weight pours	< 250
1000gm	Four Varieties	<5000
1 KILO	One Variety	< 250
50 oz	Four Varieties	<1000
100 oz	Two Varieties	< 500
250 oz	Serial Absent Industrial Bar	< 100

If you’re a ‘*Man at Work*’ like Colin Hay and you can’t get to sleep thinking about the implications of not finding a Harrington ingot for your own collection, stop worrying over situations and check out eBay day after day and think about the inspiration of when one of these rippers reappears on auction. And don’t for a minute think ‘*who can it be knockin’ at my door*’ or ‘*it’s a mistake,*’ as these bars are easy to spot. In fact, one might just come around and hit you upside the back of the head like a boomerang. At risk of diving in too deep, we’ll bet you a Vegemite sandwich that if one of these Australian phenoms pops up on eBay auction, it’s sure to be snapped up like a hungry crock after a kiwi. [Overkill?](#) Maybe... but that’s how we roll.

G’day Mates,

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